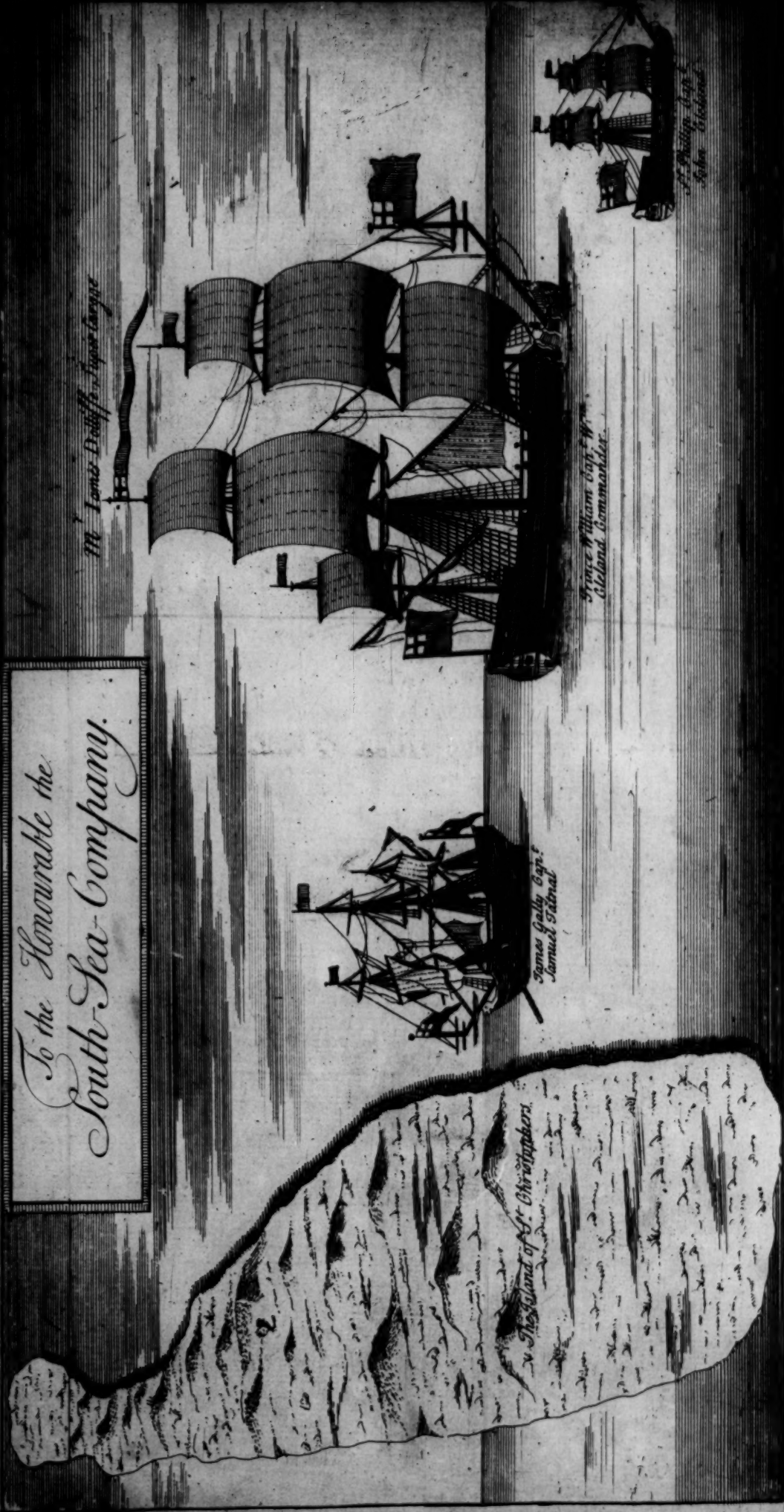


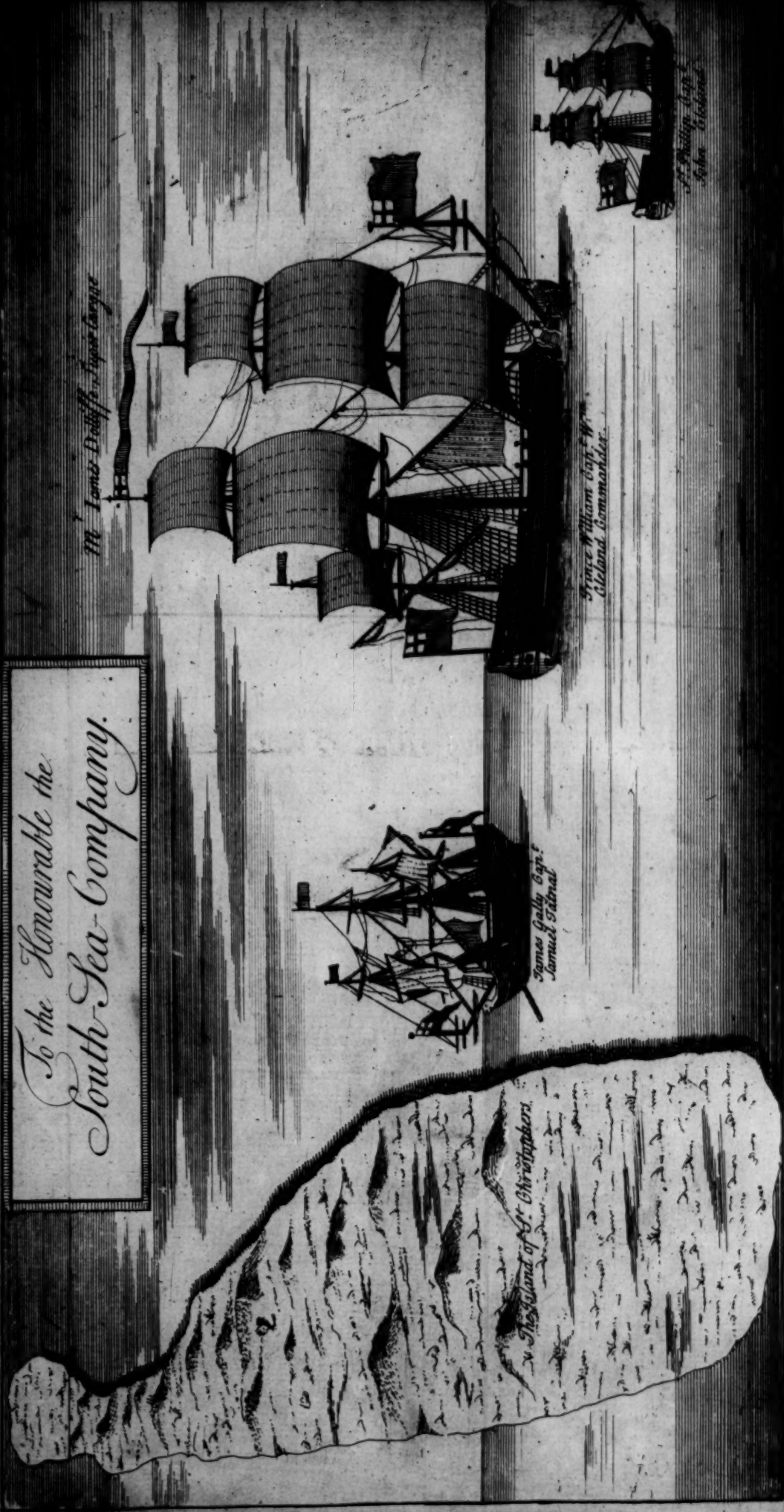
To the Honourable the
South-Sea-Company.



In Miniature behold your South Sea Fleet
Bound from St. Kitts to carry on the Cheat

As if the Crafty Scheme at first was laid
To turn to Private Use our Foreign Trade

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A N
ADDRESS
TO THE
PROPRIETORS
OF THE
South-Sea CAPITAL.

CONTAINING,

A DISCOVERY of the *Illicit Trade*, carry'd
on in the *West-Indies*; and shewing the great *Detriment*
thereof to the *Publick*; and the *Necessity* of Discouraging it
with *Rigour*, notwithstanding the *Pains* taken to *gloss* it
over; and to Recommend your *cautious* and *tender*
Resentments.

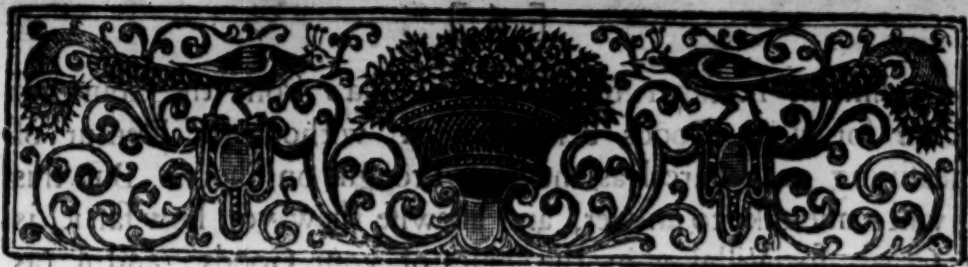
By a PROPRIETOR of the said COMPANY.



L O N D O N :

Printed for STEPHEN AUSTEN at the *Angel and Bible* in *St. Paul's*
Church-yard. M.DCC.XXXII.

[Price One Shilling.]



A N
ADDRESS

TO THE
PROPRIETORS
OF THE
South-Sea Capital, &c.

Gentlemen,



SINCE it is not to be supposed that every Proprietor is acquainted with this Trade, and the great Prejudices that attend it, I shall here give the Publick a short View of it ; and do not question but that my Readers will be well pleased to see so much Matter, and so many useful Hints upon this Subject, laid together in so clear and open a Manner.

This I do lest any one (through Ignorance) should be brought to believe, that Enquiries and Prosecutions on this Head may be of ill Consequence for future Permission Ships, and render it

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very

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very difficult hereafter to procure Cedula's from the Court of Spain for your Goods being landed, without the Demur of measuring each Parcel as they are brought on Shore. But this I will undertake to answer, and likewise shew you how far it is a Cloak for Villainy in the Sales of your Goods; and if (as it has been suggested) any of your Managers, or any for them, or belonging to them, are concern'd in this private Trade, the Consequence will be still worse, and your Privilege of sending a Ship with the *Flota*, or Galleons, will appear only to redound to the Advantage of such in Trust who connive at (if not publicly act in) these Abuses and Frauds of their Creatures.

The following are two Affidavits made on the illicit Trade, which I here publish for your full Information.

THAT this Deponent does positively make Oath, That he did set out and serve in the Station or Quality of _____ on board the Prince William, belonging to the South-Sea Company, William Cleland Commander, in the Year 1730. and that he, this Deponent, did proceed in the said Ship, William Cleland Commander, from the River of Thames to Carthagena, and Porto-Bello in the Spanish West-Indies, and from thence back again to England.

And this Deponent does affirm, that in their Voyage out in the said Prince William, the said Captain Cleland did put in with the said Ship Prince William into a Road or Place named Backstar, belonging to the Island of St. Christophers in the West-Indies, and there did immediately put on board the St. Philip, Captain John Cleland, a Snore belonging also to the South-Sea Company, all the remaining Part of the Upper and Lower Deck Guns of the said Prince William, with the Carriages, Stores, &c. and all this was done to lighten the said Ship, and give Room for receiving of Private Trade on board, so that in case the said Prince William had been attack'd by a Pirate or any other Enemy, she must have been in manifest Danger, we having no more Guns on board to defend her, till

in our Arrival at Porto-Bello, than the Guns on the Quarter Deck, and two on the Forecastle.

And further this Deponent does affirm, that in or about the Month of January 1730-1. Captain William Cleland of the aforesaid Ship Prince William, being then in the Road or Place named Backstar, belonging to the Island of St. Christophers in the West-Indies, did actually receive on board the said Ship Prince William, out of another Ship named the James Galley, one Samuel Tatnal Commander, then laying in the aforesaid Road of Backstar, a large Quantity of dry Goods, being in Quantity at least two hundred Tons, Part of which Cargo was Cakes of white Wax, a great Number of Barrels fill'd with the like Wax, a large Quantity of Cinnamon well pack'd, and the rest was Bale Goods, insomuch that after we had got the aforesaid Goods on board the Prince William, Captain William Cleland Commander, the Ship was so very full, and so exceeding deep, that the under Cells of the lower Teer of Ports were a considerable Way under Water; and so we proceeded on our Voyage in that Condition, first to Carthagena, and then to Porto-Bello in the Spanish West-Indies, where we arrived in or about the latter End of January 1730-1; after which the said Captain William Cleland, with the Privity of James Dolliffe then Chief Super-Cargo, did put on Shoar at the aforesaid Porto-Bello, out of our Ship, the Prince William, all the aforesaid Private Cargo of Wax, Cinnamon, and Bale Goods, where they were actually sold, but for what Profit this Deponent cannot say.

And, lastly, this Deponent doth averr, that during the said Prince William's Voyage, there was distributed amongst the aforesaid Prince William's Ship's Company, two hundred Pounds, or thereabouts, by the Directions of the aforesaid James Dolliffe and Captain Cleland, being for Hush-Money, in order that they should not inform, confess, or take Notice of any thing relating to the aforesaid Private Cargo; the Proportion of which due to this Deponent out of the aforesaid two hundred Pounds, was three Guineas and a Crown, which this Deponent did accord-

accordingly receive. And further, that since the Arrival in England of the aforesaid Prince William, there has been many Entertainments made in Wapping, Blackwall, &c. for the aforesaid Ship's Company, and that by the Directions of the aforesaid James Dolliffe and Captain William Cleland, in order that they might eat and drink what they pleased, and when they pleased, so that they did not discover any thing of the aforesaid Private Cargo, with Promises likewise that they should be all taken Care of, and employ'd in the South-Sea Company's Service again. And further this Deponent saith not.

Deptford. Jurat' Coram

WILLIAM WRIGHT.

THAT this Deponent doth firmly depose upon Oath, That he did set out in the Ship James Galley, Samuel Tatnal Commander, from the River of Thames, in the Month of September 1730. or thereabouts, in a Voyage bound to Jamaica in the West-Indies. And this Deponent does further positively say, that about the 7th of November in the aforesaid Year, the said Ship James Galley did arrive at a Place named Backstar, belonging to the Island of St. Christophers in the West-Indies, but finding their Ship did not immediately proceed to Jamaica, as was expected, this Deponent and the rest of the Company afore the Mast, was determined to leave the Ship at the said Backstar, and to provide for themselves some other Way, but were prevented by their aforesaid Commander Samuel Tatnal, assuring them, the said Ship's Company or Sailors, that they should have large additional Wages, which made them continue easy 'till such time as the Arrival of the Ship Prince William, Captain William Cleland Commander, belonging to the South-Sea Company, at the aforesaid Place of Backstar, which was in or about the 8th of January, in the aforesaid Year, soon after which was put on board from our Ship, the James Galley, into the said Prince William, Captain William Cleland, all our Cargo, which was well stow'd and

and full, both in the Hold and between Decks, consisting of Cask and Cakes of Wax, Cases of different Kinds, and Bale Goods.

After which, this Deponent further saith, that they received into their Ship, the James Galley, from the St. Philip Snow, Captain John Cleland, belonging also to the South-Sea Company, a large Quantity of Stores of different Kinds, which gave Room to the aforesaid St. Philip Snow to receive many Stores, &c. from the said Prince William, which was accordingly done.

And this Deponent doth further positively depose, that some time in or about the Middle of the said Month, in the aforesaid Year 1730-1. the said Prince William, Captain Cleland Commander, did sail from the aforesaid Place of Backstar, belonging to St. Christophers, the said Ship being then most exceedingly deep, which was greatly surprizing to all that saw her, how they could or would venture to Sea in such a Condition. And further this Deponent saith not.

Deptford. Jurat coram

WILLIAM WRIGHT.

Copies of these Affidavits have been procured not without infinite Pains, those concerned in the private Trade, using all possible Industry to obstruct an Enquiry of this Nature : Inso-much that many have received Hush-Money, and more have been sent out of the Way on Voyages; yet notwithstanding these Obstructions, so assiduous and indefatigable has been G——e H——te, Esq; together with some other Gentlemen in the Direction, (merely to do you Justice, and recover for you from the Covenanters the 250*l.* Penalty on each Ton) that they have brought to light this dark Scene of Villany, it being thro' them, and only them, that what they knew before, was confirmed in the Court of Directors, by the first Mate's Journal.

And I hope, as I am a Proprietor with you, that still farther Enquiries will be made into the private Trade; by which Search

we shall find, a Sloop-load of Goods taken from *Jamaica*, and put on board at *St. Christopher's*, consisting chiefly of white Wax, sent out in the Year 1727, as belonging to the Brother of a principal Person in the Direction, and shipped by a Packer in *Broad-street*.

And if the Supercargoes on former Ships are under the like Penalty of 250 *l. per Ton*, we shall (I firmly believe) then find more Profit will arise to us, from making those refund, who have had the best, and most advantagious Part of the Trade, (if not further defrauded us) than we have hitherto got to ourselves by it ever since the Year 1721.

Our Ship the *Prince William*, a fine, stately, and an expensive one, is the last used in our Trade, on board of which, like Prodigals, we spent part of her Profits, before the Voyage was compleated, or even a Certainty of a successful one (I speak as to the Reception of the said Ship at *Porto Bello*) those costly and frequent Treats on board of her I have often heard, were made at our Expence; as I believe will appear, if the Question should be put in a General Court.

We were at this Time under various Apprehensions as to the celebrating the Fair at *Porto-Bello*, greatly fearing she would be too late, yet these Covenanters could put into *Portsmouth*, hazard being in time for the Fair, to take in large Quantities of Goods on account of private Trade, as I have been well informed; they likewise put out some of your Guns belonging to the said Ship the *Prince William*, designed for the Defence and Security of your Goods: From hence they proceeded to *St. Christophers*, where they staid ten Days, although they still fear'd the Fair at *Porto-Bello* was either then actually celebrating or over.

At this Place, as appears by the Affidavits, we find another large Quantity of Goods, on Account of private Trade, was put on board; and to make the more Room and lighten the Ship, the remaining Part of both Teer of Guns were taken out and sent to *Jamaica*, with Carriages, Stores, &c. by which your Ship and Effects, although of so great Value, were left naked and defenceless: And for what Reason? Why, entirely

to take in Goods on Account of private Trade, which by a very moderate Computation, must by this time be 300 Ton; and I believe in progress of this Affair, (if thoroughly enquired into) it will appear so, by undeniable Proofs, although we were told it was about 150 Tons; but the Difference of the Penalty is 37,500*l.*: On my Word a round Sum, and worthy a strict and impartial Enquiry.

The Covenanters, in my humble Opinion, ought to be used and treated with the utmost Rigour and Severity, who have acted with so little Regard to your Interest, leaving your Ship void of Arms, and thereby giving her up to every Pyrate or Sea-Robber; and what is more, she was so very deeply loaded, that the under Cells of the lower Teer of Ports were several Inches under Water, the said *Prince William* drawing then as much as a First Rate Man of War, and was so very heavy, that had she met with any bad Weather, she must have been inevitably lost. And shall these People do all this with Impunity? Shall not the Hand of Justice lay hold of these Breakers of their Trust? I say, shall these Men who have abused the Trust reposed in them, and hazarded our Estate to Pyrates and the more merciless Waves, had they met with the least bad Winds, shall these meet with any Favour from us? No, on the contrary let us prosecute them with most strict Justice, shewing as little Tendernefs for them, as they have done to us.

Perhaps we may discover the Encouragers of and Connivers at these Mal-actions, and if so, let them also feel our just Resentment. Let us also shew to the King of *Spain* and his Ministers, that we will detect all fraudulent Traders, and will only carry on a fair Trade, introducing no more than the 650 Tons stipulated for. This to me (I confess) seems the only way to remove the *Spaniards* Jealousy at this Trade; these are the only Means of stopping the Clamours of a prejudiced Commerce and Set of Merchants, who blame us for their Losses and Disappointment; but when they see we destroy this pernicious Trade, they won't, with the Inveteracy, as hitherto they have done, impede and obstruct our Cedula's; and by acting in this Manner, we shall shew to the *Spanish* Ministers, that we don't want a strict Eye on our Trade, and that we desire no more than the 650 Tons stipulated for; to be introduced.

This

This illicit Trade (I am well informed) might have been attended with another very ill Consequence, had the *Spanish* Ministers at *Porto-Bello* measured the Goods as they were landed, as they have done in some Ships, when they have thought proper, and on finding more than the Tons limited; it is to be much feared, they would have deemed the Overplus of the Goods on board to have been Contraband, and consequently have seized them. And must not this have fell on the Company's Goods? Most assuredly; for the Goods of the private Trade being last put on board, must have been first landed.

After all these Risques run, give me leave to ask, What Profits we have to boast of? and where is our mighty Advantage? The Outset or Amount of the Cargo of the said Ship 'was nigh 220,000*l.* and the Return about 1,300,000 Dollars or 280,000*l.* the Difference and Gains thereon, is 60,000*l.* but when a Present is deducted, that is said was made before the Ship sailed, her Expences in the River, Expences in the Voyage, and to her Return Seamens Wages, the Wear and Tear of the Ship, Commissions on Sales, Ware-houses, and many more Charges, there will little, if any, Profit appear. And must not this give us strong Apprehensions of Villainy some-where carried on? and is there not great Reason for Suspensions? and more especially so when we consider, that the *Spanish* Merchants on board the Galeons, can't put their Goods into *Porto-Bello* under an Expence and Charge, amounting to the first Cost, *viz. Cent. per Cent.* exclusive of Commissions, and other unavoidable Charges on Sales? Does it not behove us then to enquire to the very Bottom of these Injuries, and examine nicely into every Particular of these Malactions? and not tamely to suffer such things; nay, more, fawn upon and even adore our Abusers, like Creatures void of Spirit. As we are free from Guilt, let us be so from Fear; whilst the Fraudulent and Breakers of their Trust dread the impending Fate.

*Iustum & tenacem propositi virum
Non Civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non Vultus Instantis Tyranni
Mente quatit Solida.*

Hor. lib. 3. od. 3.

It

It is well known, that in 1715, a Director was rendered incapable of serving the Company, because he was engaged in a Parcel of Goods designed for *Carthagera* and *Porto-Bello*; and does not the same Penalty reach to a Permission Ship, the Feather and Flower of our Trade, and certain Gain to us, if honestly and prudently managed? Suppose on Enquiry, a Brother or near Relation shall appear to be largely concern'd in this destructive Trade, ought you not to shew a just Resentment? Is not the Breach of Trust the same, if a Manager should, through a Brother or otherwise, connive at, countenance and be concerned in these Abuses? and what convincing Reasons have we for such Thoughts and Jealousies, when we duely consider the Nature of the thing itself? for can it be thought that Men, after they had laid themselves under such strict Injunctions, even the Penalty of 250 *l.* per Ton on private Trade, would thus boldly engage in a thing that from its nature, could not be carried on with Secrecy? I say, would Men be so mad thus to engage, had they not a strong Dependance, and even a promised Security and Indemnification from Men in Power?

We are told in Coffee-houses, that the Sale of our Goods was at once to a Number of Merchants, that is in one Sale; but what will you think, and what Room is there to mistrust our late Super-Cargoes and Factors Abroad; when it shall be proved that there were several Sales of Goods, one of about 1,600,000 Dollars, another near 200,000, and sundry others of smaller Sums, in all believed to amount at least to 2,200,000 Dollars, a wide Difference from 1,300,000 Dollars.

When your Goods are thus blended with the private Trade, what vast Opportunity is there for Frauds? what wide Room for ill-disposed Men to act in? But perhaps some may say, how can we detect and put an End to these Wrongs? To these I answer, by searching strictly to the Origin of these Impositions; it is palpable that no cursory or slight Enquiry will be sufficient: if we would come at the valuable Things, we must not examine the Surface only, but dive deep; there the Pearls (or grand Secrets) will be found: Let your Super-Cargoes be strictly examined, and your Factors Abroad also be called

Home to Examination, sparing no Pains to get at the Truth of this black Scene of Villainy.

And then what Reason shall we have to adore and reverence the Bringers about of these Affairs? I mean those Gentlemen in the Direction, who with Pains unutterable, have got to the Truth of this; and upon this Knowledge, demanded a particular Account of the Sales of your Goods, and who make this Demand for no other Reason, than out of a just Regard to the Trust you have reposed and placed in them, consulting only your Good and Interest: But if there should be any one in the Direction (as I hope there is not) who has had an Advantage from this private Trade, he may (I imagine) be discovered, by endeavouring to quash such Proposals, lest in the Discovery the Print of his Fingers be found in the Pye. Supposing these Enquiries be put a Stop to, what Liberty will there be then for Frauds? but surely no one can harbour such a Thought, without doing wrong to the Gentlemen in the Direction?

I hope the worthy Gentlemen, who were roused through a true Principle of Honour and Honesty, to discharge the Trust reposed in them, will firmly persist with Resolution and Diligence to punish the Offenders with Rigour; the only Method of discouraging and destroying this private Trade, which renders your Privileges to turn to the Profit only of some few Men, while you are at all the Expence and Risque.

If this Voyage of the *Prince William*, which was completed in ten Months, has not been of much Profit and Advantage to the Company; how can we persuade ourselves, we have got by others? for my part I think the Directors should give us a distinct Account of each Voyage; and then I greatly fear, we shall have little Reason to return our Thanks to any but to those Gentlemen, who will give us a true Account of our Affairs, and have undertaken to detect and punish these Covenanters.

We

We were told in a General Court, that we had got by our Trade; I much fear in this, there was a gross Mistake, 640,000*l.* being deducted on the Outset in Trade for Seizures before the Year 1721; I am informed likewise, that there was no Regard had to what has been received on account of those Seizures, which is said to be above Half, if not quite Two-thirds or more of the Sum; and if so, have we not Room for very unfavourable Conjectures? and the more obliged to redress and retrieve these Injuries and Losses, and punish the Evil-doers: To do this, some Indulgence must be shewn to those who will truly and ingenuously discover the Truth; and this is of such Moment, and so very Material, that I think all due Encouragement ought to be given by the Court of Directors; and if it should not be there done, that the Proprietors in a General Court would do it, and now it's the more necessary, as you may, through the present Tranquillity of Affairs, expect to reap much Profit from your Trade, if prudently and honestly managed.

It is my humble Opinion, that the most sure Way would be to farm most part of it, if not all, by which you would run but a small Risque, if any, and have a certain Advantage, and a larger than you have at any Time yet made.

It is reported there is, or will be, a Bill in *Chancery* filed against these Offenders, these Breakers of their Trust; if so, then it will be necessary to endeavour at a particular Account of the Sales of your Goods, and another of the private Trade, by which you may get at the true Account of your Sales abroad; for surely 1,300,000 Dollars seems to be very small Returns on 220,000*l.* the first Cost: Is there not then great Reason to suspect Abuses in this Trade, when several *Spanish* Merchants in Town well know, that those on board the Gallions, when they have paid Duties in *Spain*, Freight, Bottomree, and a certain part of the first Invoice to the Captain of the Ship; to make good all Damages at Sea (as they all do) the first Cost is, by the Time they arrive at *Porto-Bello*, doubled; and even to maintain themselves, or pay Commissions,

sions, and not be Losers by the Voyage, they must sell at
150 per Cent.; surely we may expect *Cent. per Cent.*

To conclude; Resolve to have Justice done you; be not
 amused with artful and glossy Speeches in your General Courts;
 but come to the Purpose; examine the State of your Affairs;
 see your different Voyages ballanc'd, and what has been receiv'd
 of your former Seizures, and then insist on an Account: I
 think you should demand its being publish'd, for who can
 have Time in a General Court, to examine into an Account
 of that Length. And if you find you have not got by your
 Trade, admit of Proposals, let it be farmed; by which your
 Money concerned in Trade, might pay off your Bonds, a
 certain annual Interest be saved, and every Branch of your
 Trade might be render'd advantageous.

F I N I S.



